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ATTN :

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 REASON 3013

File AN/A-42
Ant fil.

13 January 1961

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AN/A-42 Antennas

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1. Under the terms of a contract between [redacted] and the U. S. Government, a quantity of 23 each AN/A-42 antennas were fabricated at a total fixed price contract cost of \$11,960. These items are presently located at a Government installation where they are being calibrated.

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2. The Government personnel doing the calibration work have advised the undersigned that the workmanship exhibited in the construction/fabrication of the antennas is of poor quality. The purpose of this memorandum is to bring these facts to the attention of [redacted]. The following list describes areas of poor workmanship and quality of construction:

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- a) The threads for making the mast connections have not been deburred properly . . . if at all.
- b) Locking pins designed to hold a locking bushing securely to threaded sections of the antenna assembly are seated in the holes very loosely. In fact when one of the antennas was erected prior to calibration, the antenna collapsed.
- c) The fiber glass loading coil assembly, as far as can be determined, has never been finished properly. A resin which was applied over the fiber glass section was applied in a most sloppy manner. In addition sharp, jagged edges of the fiber glass protrude at the ends of the loading coil and are not covered by any protective tape as described by GFE drawings. Obviously, the sharp protruding fiber glass edges create a hazard for anyone who must assemble these antennas.
- d) When the protective resin was applied over the fiber glass, it has slopped over various sections of the antenna such as a band switch mechanism (pivot/shorting bar) thus grounding the band switch and also over the top hat clamp section locking mechanism.
- e) The method of applying the resin over the fiber glass loading coil used by the Government was to spin the loading coil on a lathe, however, it appears that the contractor used a different method which effected poor results.

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SUBJECT: AN/A-42 Antennas

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1) After delivery of (4) AN/A-42's on an expedited basis early during the fabrication of these antennas, the Government engineers, on a visit to the contractor's plant, noted that the fiber glass loading coils were wound very loosely thus making it impossible to calibrate the antennas properly. As a result, corrective action was taken by [redacted]

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3. In order to expedite corrective action in repairing the antennas the Government will take the responsibility to modify items described in paragraphs 2A, 2B, and 2D. It is requested that [redacted] take the necessary action to correct the items described in item 2C.

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Orig. + 2 - Addressee

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